

SPECIFICATION

REMARKS

CLAIMS

The allowance of claims 11 and 17 - 19 is noted with appreciation.

The objection to claim 5 has been corrected. Claim 5 now depends on claim 2.

The rejection of claims 2 - 6, 9-10 and 13 under 35 USC 112 are respectfully traversed as being moot since the claims in question have been corrected. The change has been taken from original claim 1, so that there is no possibility that new matter has been inserted. Likewise, since claim 1 has already been searched, there is no need to do any additional search as a result of this change.

Applicants' attorney notes with appreciation that the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103 found in the Office Action of has been removed.

Applicants attorney understands that the Examiner agrees that the combination of Ylonen and Rosen does not meet the limitations of claim 2 or the other independent claims.

As amended, the independent claims require that the originator receive a returned ICMP packet that is examined to validate that transformations within the tunnel have been performed correctly.

In the Action of 10/27/2003, the Examiner stated that the Ylonen reference does not disclose examining the content of a returned ICMP message to validate the transformations are done properly (Paragraph 9).

The passage in Rosen (Col 1, lines 60 - 65) cited in the preceding Action does, of course, not show the examination of a returned ICMP message to validate that a transformation was done properly and therefore the combination cited by the Examiner does not meet the limitations of claim 2 or any other of the independent claims.

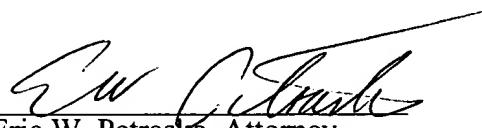
In the past, the network stops forwarding a packet when its TTL field is decremented to zero and returns the header and the first eight bytes to the originating address, which then resends it or takes other action. Claim 2 defines a new use for the returned packet - it is the means of verifying that the transformation on the packet has been performed successfully.

Thus, according to claim 2, the returned header is not used as information that the transmission failed, but is used as the vehicle for verifying or validating that the transformation in question has been performed successfully. This is a new use for the TTL field, not suggested or shown by the various references.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

by:


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